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INFORMATION RELATED TO  
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL  
Hugh Conway Browning

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Information Related to  
**St. Mary's Chapel**

Location: Seven Miles East of Hillsborough  
Orange County, North Carolina

Compiled By

*Hugh Conway Browning*



First Report: Pages 1-A through 7-A..... Written July 1958  
Second Report: Pages 1 through 13 ..... Written March 1970  
Pages 14 through 19..... Written November 1971  
Pertain to Orange County's and St. Mary's public schools



## HUGH CONWAY BROWNING

HUGH CONWAY BROWNING WAS BORN THE SECOND CHILD OF MARY LOCKHART AND STIRLING BROWNING IN THE ANTHONY COLE HOUSE NEAR CABE'S FORD ON THE ENO RIVER MAY 7, 1896. THE PROPERTY LATER BECAME PART OF THE ENO RIVER PARK. HIS PARENTS AND THEIR FIRST FOUR OF ELEVEN CHILDREN MOVED IN 1901 TO THE ARCHIBALD CAIN PLANTATION, WHICH IS THE CURRENT MARY AND STIRLING BROWNING FOREST TRUST HOME ON THE PLEASANT GREEN ROAD IN ORANGE COUNTY. HE ATTENDED PUBLIC SCHOOL AT ST. MARY'S, PLEASANT GREEN AND HILLSBOROUGH THROUGH 1917. IN ORDER TO ATTEND SCHOOL IN HILLSBOROUGH, HE BOARDED IN TOWN AND WORKED TWO OR THREE JOBS AT THE TIME.

HE SERVED IN THE NAVY DURING WORLD WAR 1. THEREAFTER HE WORKED AT VARIOUS CLERK AND ACCOUNTING JOBS IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AND CHICAGO AREAS. HE LATER MOVED TO NEW YORK AND BECAME VICE-PRESIDENT AND TREASURER OF SEABOARD TERMINAL AND REFRIGERATION COMPANY.

HE RETIRED IN THE 1950'S AND RETURNED TO ORANGE



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COUNTY AND THE MARY AND STIRLING BROWNING HOME PLACE WHERE HE PRESERVED THE OLD HOME AND BUILT A NEW ONE FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES. SOON AFTER HIS RETURN HE BEGAN A TWO-DECADE PERIOD OF RESEARCH OF FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES AND PROPERTIES IN ORANGE COUNTY. INFORMATION RELATING TO ST MARY'S CHAPEL... AND ST. MARY'S PUBLIC SCHOOL, COMPILED BY MR. BROWNING ARE TWO OF NUMEROUS WORKS HE DID DURING THIS TIME.

HIS INTEREST IN ST. MARY'S CHAPEL MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ST. MARY'S CHAPEL RESTORATION COMMITTEE, LATER TO BECOME THE COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHAPEL, DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE BEARING THESE TWO NAMES , THE RESTORATION OF ST. MARY'S CHAPEL HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN COMPLETED AND WORK ON THE GROUNDS AND THE CEMETERY HAS PROGRESSED.

CONWAY DIED IN 1983 AND BY A CONTRIBUTION OF \$1000.00 DESIGNATED IN HIS WILL TO BE A PRINCIPLE SUM FOR THE CARE OF THE CEMETERY , HE BEGAN A





PERPETUAL CARE FUND FOR THE ST. MARY'S CHAPEL  
CEMETERY.

HIS COMPILED WRITINGS REGARDING THE CHAPEL AND  
THE CEMETERY ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE WITH THE  
APPROVAL OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE BROWNING TRUST  
FOR A DONATION TO THE CHAPEL OR CEMETERY. IT IS  
HOPED THESE WRITINGS WILL HELP OTHERS IN THEIR  
QUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ANCESTORS AND  
SPARK ADDITIONAL INTEREST IN KNOWLEDGE OF AND  
CARE FOR THE ST. MARY'S CHAPEL AND CEMETERY.

POLLY CABE ROBERTS

1996



INFORMATION RELATING TO ST. MARY'S CHAPEL  
LOCATED SIX MILES EAST OF HILLSBORO  
ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

COMPILED BY

HUGH CONWAY BROWNING

The History of Orange County 1752-1952, edited by Lefler and Wager, contains a chapter on the Churches of Orange County, by L. J. Phipps, from which the following has been taken:

"In 1754, two years after the formation of Orange County, Governor Arthur Dobbs secured the passage of a Vestry Act, but King George II disallowed the law because it conferred the right of presentation upon the vestries. The Crown also disallowed church laws passed in 1758, 1760, 1761 and 1762 on the same grounds. As a result Anglican clergy were left without support and the number of clergymen in North Carolina began to decrease. In 1764 Dobbs reported that there were only six Anglican clergymen in the whole colony. Under the encouragement of Governors William Tryon and Josiah Martin and supported by the Vestry Act of 1764, renewed in 1768 and again in 1774, the number of clergymen increased from six to eighteen.

"Though no dates have been established it is known that in addition to St. Matthew's Church in Hillsboro, at least two other chapels of the Church of England, the established church, were organized in Orange County prior to the Revolution. St. Mary's in the Eastern part of the county and New Hope Chapel in the Southern part of the county on the hill that is now Chapel Hill were in existence prior to the war. The Rev. George Micklejohn, rector of the parish, probably preached at all three places until the outbreak of the Revolution, when he, like most of the other ministers of the Church of England, was compelled to resign his position because he remained loyal to the crown.

"The Revolution had the effect of disestablishing the Church of England in the colonies. The tie between church and state was completely severed with the adoption of the Federal Constitution which declared "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion". At the close of the war only five of its clergy remained in North Carolina."

Orange County and the parish of St. Matthew were formed in 1752 from the western portions of Granville, Johnston and Bladen counties, as provided in the Laws of North Carolina - 1752, Chapter VI. In this same law, James Watson, Alexander Maben, Mark Morgan, John Pattison, Andres Mitchell, Thomsa Loveletter, Lawrence Bankston, James Ellison, William Bolling, John Gray, John Pitman and Joseph Tate were appointed Vestrymen of the Parish of St. Matthew, and Alexander Maben was appointed Sheriff of the County of Orange.



## INFORMATION RELATING TO ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

Minutes for Orange County October 1754 Term of Court contain the following; "It is ordered that the Vestry of the Parish of Saint Matthew do divide the said Parish into as many districts as to them seem most easy and convenient for the processioning every particular person's land within the Parish at some convenient time between the beginning of October and the last of April agreeable to law".

A review of minutes for Terms of Court subsequent to October 1754, did not disclose any further report on this subject. Perhaps there was no further action by the court at that time because the Vestry Act had been disallowed by King George II. However, at some time subsequent to October 1754, the County was divided into separate Parishes or Districts, for the tax records for 1781, show the several districts within the County of Orange, as: Hillsborough, Orange, St. Thomas, St. Asaph's, St. Mark's, St. Marie's, Chatham and Caswell. (Caswell was formerly Tryon.)

SAINT ASAPH (sunt a'suf), rural district (pop. 7,752), Flintshire, Wales, SE of Rhyl and on the Elwy and Clwyd rivers. The small cathedral restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott, has a collection of early Bibles and other religious books. The ancient monastery of Llanelwy in this cathedral city was renamed to honor Asaph, a 6th-century abbot; traditionally he is called a bishop. Morgan, translator of the Bible into Welsh, was bishop here. In 1920 the bishop of St. Asaph became Anglican archbishop for Wales. (The Columbia Encyclopedia).

The minutes for the September 1757 Term of Court contain the following: "A deed of sale from William Churton to the Vestry for a lot of land in Corbin Town was proved in open court by the oath of William Reed, and was ordered to be registered. The Orange County Registration of Deeds 1752 - 1793, record now in the Department of Archives and History at Raleigh, contains the following: March Court 1757; "A deed of sale from William Churton to Church Wardens for 1 acre of land was proved in open court by the oath of William Reed and was ordered to be registered."

It does not appear that this deed was ever registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Orange County. It is said that the site of the old St. Matthew's Church which was destroyed by fire about 1791, was located at the Northwest corner of Churton and Tryon Streets in Hillsboro. This site is now occupied by the Cemetery, the Hillsboro Library and the Presbyterian Church. In the original plan of Hillsboro, lots were 264 feet by 165 feet (4 chains by 2½ chains), and contained one acre.

About the year 1935, the late Ernest Hugh Scarlett prepared a short history of the Scarlett, Latta and Allan Families. At that time he was a lawyer located in Durham, North Carolina, although he was a native of the St. Mary's Section of Orange County. In this memorandum of history Mr. Scarlett stated that the information which he had compiled was based on family tradition, records and a general knowledge of the people.

Stephen Scarlett, a great grandfather of the author of the history mentioned above, came to America from Leige, England, about twenty-five years before the Revolution, and settled on a farm about two miles South, Southeast of the present day location of St. Mary's Chapel. When he first





## INFORMATION RELATING TO ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

arrived in Orange County, he rented his farm from the Lords Proprietors, but after the Revolution he bought land, and owned a large sized farm at the time of his death in 1817. Both Stephen and his wife Sally were members of the Church of England, and were also Tories. He refused to join the Revolutionary Army, escaped from the Patriot recruiting officers, reached the British Army and surrendered with the British Army at Yorktown. Hannah Allan Scarlett, grandmother of Ernest Hugh Scarlett, took pride in the fact that she never went anywhere except to church at St. Mary's Chapel. She and her husband James, had three sons, Allan, James And William. Allan died when about twenty years of age; he was a member of the Episcopal Church, St. Mary's Chapel, and was very devout. Hannah Allan Scarlett was a granddaughter of James Cain, as was Mary A. White, who was largely responsible for rebuilding St. Mary's Chapel in 1859.

On March 25, 1752, Michael Synnott obtained a grant of 500 acres of land from John Earl Granville, and on January 1, 1755, Michael Synnott, storekeeper, conveyed this tract of land to Thomas Holden, weaver. This tract of land was located on both sides of what is known today as St. Mary's Road. The Eastern boundary line of of this tract is about 600 feet East of the present day Eastern wall of St. Mary's Cemetery. The original extended Westward from this Eastern line for a distance of 80 chains, 5,280 feet, 1 mile, and included the land which later became St. Mary's Cemetery, and also the nine and nine-sixteenths acres of land which Ellen Bain conveyed to John H. Webb on May 11, 1858. Thomas Holden, Sr., who purchased the 500 acre tract of land on January 1, 1755, members of his family and his descendents (one of whom was Ellen Bain), continued as owners of this tract of land for a number of years after January 1, 1755.

Minutes of the December 1759 Term of Orange County Court contain the following: "A deed of gift from Thomas Holden to Stephen Scarlett for one acre of land was proved in open court by the oath of William Reed and was ordered to be registered". The Registration of Deeds record, previously mentioned, contains the following: March 1759 Court; "A deed of sale from the Earl Granville to Stephen Scarlett for 1 acre of land was proved in open court by William Reed". Note: The names on the margin of the page at the point where this item is recorded, are; HOLDEN TO SCARLET, so it seems probable that the name "Earl Granville" is in error. This deed does not appear to have been registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Orange County, and further definite details relating to it are not available; however, it is the opinion of this chronicler that this acre of land was the original location of St. Mary's Chapel, and the land which today is St. Mary's Cemetery.

It is known that In 1759, Thomas Holden owned the land which subsequently became what today is known as St. Mary's Cemetery. In later years a number of the descendents of this Thomas Holden were communicants at St. Mary's Chapel; perhaps also Thomas, although no information has been located on this. Some of his descendents, perhaps Thomas, are buried there.

It is known that the British Crown disallowed the church laws that were passed by the local government in 1754, 1758. 1761 and 1762 and 1760, as a result of which there was not any regular or legal church organization of the Church of England in Orange County during those years.





## INFORMATION RELATING TO ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

It is known that Stephen Scarlett had come from Leige, England, and in 1759, was a resident of Orange County; that he and his wife were communicants to the Church of England; that some twenty years later they remained loyal to the "home government" or the crown, and refused to join what they probably considered the "rebels".

The sturdy men and women who wrested the land of Orange from the wilderness associated together for purposes of mutual protection and welfare, and for the purposes of opening and maintaining roads, such as they were, and it certainly seems logical that these people would associate together for the purpose of establishing a church on a volunteer basis if there were no law regulating the establishment of a church to meet the spiritual needs of the inhabitants of the community. Therefore, it could be that Stephen Scarlett was the Trustee, or one of the local Vestry, representing the group which organized St. Mary's Chapel; that the land was donated by Thomas Holden and that the year was 1759.

Within the memory of all persons now living the original church lot, as it exists today, has been inclosed by a fence constructed of rough field stones. The original church stood within this fence, or stone wall, at the Northeast corner. Mr. D. S. Walker stated in 1956, that he recalls as a young man, clearing away some of the underbrush and throwing some of the rotten sills of the old church over the fence onto the fire. Native rocks used as foundation stones for the original church may be seen in the original location, in the Northeast corner of the original church lot.

The outside dimensions of the original St. Mary's Chapel property are 200 feet by 265 feet, or approximately 1.2 acres. In May 1858, the Trustees purchased a tract of land from Ellen Bain, a granddaughter of John Kelly, Sr., and a great granddaughter of Thomas Holden, Sr., consisting of nine and nine-sixteenths acres which adjoins the original church tract. In a deed of conveyance dated April 24, 1889, the Rev. Joseph W. Murphy, Trustee of the Religious Association known as St. Mary's, Orange County, conveyed to the Trustees of the Diocese of North Carolina, the nine and nine-sixteenths acres of land, which had been purchased in 1858. Neither the original deed from Ellen Bain, nor the conveyance from Joseph W. Murphy to the Trustees for the Diocese of North Carolina, included the original church lot.

For a number of years the original church lot within the walls of the fence, was used as a place for the burial of the dead. It is doubtful if there is any part of this church lot which is today is not occupied by the remains of some former member of the community. Because of these conditions, and the fact that a great many of the graves are not marked and cannot be distinguished, there have not been any burials there for a number of years. The earliest known grave in this cemetery is that of Alice Vickers. This grave is marked with a rough hand-marked stone with the inscription: Alice Vickers - Born 1730 - Died 1780.

It appears that there was delay and confusion in establishing the Episcopal Church in North Carolina after the close of the Revolutionary War. A convention of representatives of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina met at Tarborough in May 1794. The Convention selected delegates to the General Convention; elected Charles Pettigrew bishop of North



## INFORMATION RELATING TO ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

Carolina Diocese, and drew up a constitution for the government of the body. Late in the summer of 1795, the Bishop-elect started to Philadelphia to be consecrated. He intended to go on board the Packet at Norfolk, but before he reached there the reports of the yellow fever and the mortality which attended it were such that he concluded to return to his home near Edenton. His application for consecration by the General Convention was not renewed after 1795, but he remained the recognized head of the church in North Carolina until 1799. In view of the unsettled conditions of the times, perhaps it is not surprising that the small country church of St. Mary's Chapel did not make union with the State Convention until 1819. In 1794, when the Bishop-elect was planning his trip to Philadelphia, he was residing at "Scots Hall", which was the ancestral home of his second wife, who was Mary Lockhart before her marriage. This old estate is a place of beauty, which remains today, across the Chowan River, southwest from Edenton on Albemarle Sound, not a great distance from the point where the Roanoke River flows into the sound. Mary Lockhart Pettigrew's mother, Elizabeth Lockhart, widow of James, died on January 31, 1796, in her 87th year. At the death of Elizabeth, "Scots Hall" passed from control of the Lockhart family, which had owned it since December 1727. In 1797, Charles Pettigrew moved to his Belgrade plantation in Tyrrell County, where he died, possibly of tuberculosis, April 8, 1807. It was for his services in the region of Belgrade that the name of "Old Parson" was given him.

St. Mary's Chapel is located about six miles East, Northeast of Hillsboro on what is now known as St. Mary's Road. In the early days, at the time of the organization of Orange County, this route was known as the "Trading Path". Sometime later, and until comparatively recently, it was known as the Hillsboro - Oxford Road.

Through the courtesy of the Rev. Mr. Petit, Rector of St. Matthew's Church at Hillsboro, and Messrs. Paul C. Collins and Don Matheson, members of the Vestry of this church, this chronicler has been permitted to inspect the church records of St. Mary's Chapel. These available records consist of two Parish Registers, together with several loose memoranda. One register begins with 1839, and the other which follows the first, begins with 1881. The second register contains some information on the history of the church, and also contains a Note: "There is also much in a book belonging to St. Matthew's Ch., Hillsboro, beginning with 1819, relating to St. Mary's. (JWM)." This chronicler did not review the 1819 - 1839 records.

The second register of St. Mary's Chapel apparently was begun by the Rev. Joseph W. Murphy. It contains several historical items relating to St. Mary's Chapel, some of which are as follows:

"1881 - July 7 - On this day I took charge of the Congregation in connection with St. Matthew's - Hillsboro - Joseph W. Murphy."

"(In 1859, at the Convention, Dr. Curtis, the Rector at Hillsboro & in charge of St. Mary's, reported the building of neat brick chapel at cost of \$2,000.00.)"





## INFORMATION RELATING TO ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

"(At the Convention of 1868, among a number of others, St. Mary's, Orange Co. was declared to be no longer entitled to represent'n. in the Conv.)."

"1888 - May 14 - Congregation re-organized as St. Mary's Mission in conformity with the Canon of this Diocese, by the Rev. T. B. Lyman, Bp. of the Diocese. Mr. Philip Walker being appointed Warden & James F. Cain, Jr., Sec.-Treas., on nomination of minister in charge, the organization being effected on the Bps. receiving a petition from the congregation asking for it. During the fall previous, a new roof was put on the church."

"1889 - April 22 - Easter Morn. At a meeting of Cong'n. called by minister in ch., present Philip Walker. Levi S. Walker, Wm. R. Walker, Thomas S. Walker & James A. Walker & the minister, presiding; Phil. Walker was elected Warden, Levi S. Walker, Clerk & Thos. S. Walker, Treas. for the year & the minister was elected Trustee to hold property with authority to transfer to Trustees of the Diocese."

"April 24 - Joseph W. Murphy deeded property to Trustees of the Diocese. See their report in Journal of Convention of 1889, P. 36.

"The three deeds there mentioned (Ellen Bain to John H. Webb for 9 9/16 acres, John H. Webb to Thomas R. Cain for same and Joseph W. Murphy to Trustees of the Diocese), were all recorded by the Reg. of Orange County."

"1890 - Memo. - There is a tombstone at this date in St. Mary's Church yard with the inscription; Alice Vickers, Born 1730, Died 1780."

The Rev. Joseph W. Murphy died October 17, 1900, and lies buried in St. Matthew's Church Cemetery at Hillsboro. The tombstone at his grave bears the inscription:

Chaplain 43rd and 32nd Regts., N. C. Vols. C. S. A."

The second Church Register, mentioned above contains a notation in pencil: "St. Jude, Stoney Creek 1818; St. Mary's 1819, admitted union with Conv."

The records reviewed have not furnished any definite information as to the original organization of St. Mary's Chapel. Local tradition says that originally it was "Church of England", and this appears to be verified by the fact that subsequently it became a part of the Episcopal Church, Diocese of North Carolina. However, the church was organized at some time, and has been a place of worship in this community for a great number of years, and the possible origin set forth previously in these chronicles sounds reasonable and not at variance with the established facts.



## INFORMATION RELATING TO ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

The following is a copy of a memorandum found among the records of St. Mary's Chapel, previously mentioned:

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR BUILDING ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

Mrs. Mary White	\$ 400.00
Miss Mary C. Cain	300.00
Thos. Cain	100.00
Thos. Ruffin, Jr.	25.00
Mrs. Wadsworth	5.00
J. B. Leathers	20.00
Walker Anderson	1.00
Mr. & Mrs. Speed	50.00
Wm. Cain	200.00
Miss M. C. Cameron	100.00
Hon. P. C. Cameron	50.00
Sarah Latta	5.00
Elizabeth J. Latta	5.00
Caroline E. Latta	5.00
Philip Walker	5.00
Robert F. Walker	5.00
William R. Walker	3.00
Miss Amley Walker	1.00
Levi D. Walker	<u>2.50</u>

\$1282.50

Mrs. Mary A. (Polly) White resided about one mile East of St. Mary's Chapel, ~~at the former homeplace~~ of her father, William Cain, Sr. It is said that she was the moving spirit behind the construction of a new chapel at St. Mary's, and that she furnished a substantial part of the money required for completing the building.

The tract of land on which the new church was constructed was purchased from Ellen Bain, May 11, 1858.

St. Mary's Chapel was consecrated according to the provisions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, November 25, 1859, by Thomas Atkinson, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina.

probable

From the foregoing it appears that St. Mary's Chapel was originally organized in 1759. It is known that the new chapel, the one which stands today (1958) was constructed in 1858 or 1859, and that it was consecrated in November 1859.

Regular services at the "Chapel" were discontinued some twenty or twenty-five years ago, and most of the Communicants transferred their memberships to St. Matthew's Church at Hillsboro. Since that time it has been the custom to observe an annual homecoming service at St. Mary's Chapel, usually the third Sunday in August. These services are conducted by the Episcopal Clergy, with the cooperation of the members of the other churches in the area, and are considered somewhat in the nature of a "Community Homecoming".





# ST. MARY'S CHAPEL

Orange County, North Carolina

Information Compiled By

Hugh Conway Browning

Orange County was formed in the year 1752. At the same time the Parish of St. Matthew was formed, encompassing the entire County, to provide the inhabitants of the new county with the spiritual ministrations of the Church of England. The governing body of the County was the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, executive, legislative and judicial. The Justices of the Court were appointed by the Governor. It appears that there was not any established number of Justices, although the presence of three was required for the transaction of business by the County Court.

The following represent quotations from the minutes of the County Court:

October Term 1754:

It is ordered that the Vestry of the Parish of St. Matthew do divide the said Parish into as many districts as to them shall seem most easy and convenient for the processioning every particular person's land within the Parish at some convenient time between the beginning of October and last of April, agreeable to law.

September Term 1757:

A deed of sale from William Churton to the Vestry for a lott of land in Corbin Town was proved in open court by the oath of William Reed and was ordered to be registered.

December Term 1759:

A deed of gift from Thomas Holden to Stephen Scarlett for one acre of land was proved in open court by the oath of William Reed and was ordered to be registered.

A perusal of Court Minutes for subsequent periods did not disclose any report by the Vestry on the division of the Parish of St. Matthew as authorized by the Court at the October 1754 Term. However, the records for years which followed disclose that the Parish was divided, although details are not available.

The September 1757 deed from Churton to the Vestry covered Lot No. 98 in the original plan of the Town which was re-named



Hillsborough in 1766, located at the northwest<sup>corner</sup> of present-day Churton and Tryon Streets. This lot became the site of St. Matthew's Church, and the first Church of England in that town, and also the site of the Cemetery which is now known as the Old Town Cemetery.

The one acre of land covered by the deed of gift from Thomas Holden to Stephen Scarlett became the site of the first St. Mary's Chapel, and to-day the site of the St. Mary's Chapel Cemetery.

Neither the deed from Churton to the Vestry, nor the deed from Holden to Scarlett appear to be recorded in the Orange County deed books available to-day.

In a deed dated January 1, 1755, Michael Synnott (Storekeeper) conveyed to Thomas Holden (Weaver) 500 acres of land lying on Buck Quarter Creek (OCDB 1-27). This represented the 500 acres of land granted by John Earl Granville to Michael Synnott of the County of Granville, in the Province of North Carolina, March 25, 1752 (OCDB 1-24). This grant was recorded in the North Carolina Land Office Records, Book No. 14, Page No. 61, and was described as being located in Granville County, which it was before the formation of Orange County. This grant was proved in Orange County at June 1755 Term of Court and was recorded in Orange County Deed Book No. 1, Pages No. 24 to 26.

The site of St. Mary's Chapel represents a part of the 500 acres of land conveyed by Michael Synnott to Thomas Holden January 1, 1755, as above. This has been proved by comparing the metes and bounds and descriptions of the Synnott grant with the metes and bounds and descriptions of other adjoining land grants in the same area.

At the August 1777 Term of Court Thomas Holden was among those cited by the Justices of Orange County to appear at Court and take the oath of allegiance to the State as prescribed by law, or otherwise be dealt with as the law directs.

The records do not show whether or not Thomas appeared to take the oath, but this citation indicates that he probably was a Tory, and that at August 1777 he had not taken the oath of allegiance to the State of North Carolina, which had been created and the Constitution formally adopted in December 1776. Definite information is not available, but the indications are that Thomas Holden had immigrated to America, probably from the northwest part of England or the southwest part of Scotland. His family consisted of three sons and three daughters. The indications are that sometime, probably during the 1760's he distributed the 500 acre tract of land among his children. The date of his death has not been determined, although the court record shows that he was still alive in August 1777.

About the year 1935, Ernest Hugh Scarlett (1877-1947) a great-grandson of Stephen Scarlett, prepared a memorandum on the history of the Scarlett, Latta and Allan Families. The following represent quotations from that memorandum:



"The information which I have compiled was gotten by tradition, records and general knowledge of the people.

"Stephen Scarlett moved from Leige, England. He lived just west, about one-half mile from where I was raised. He was married at the time he came to America. His wife was formerly Sally Jackson (NOTE: available records show that her maiden name was Sarah (Sally) Flint-hem, a daughter of John Flinthem). All of their children (Two sons and eight daughters) were born in Orange County, in the same house on the same plantation. He rented his farm of about one hundred acres from the Lords Proprietors, and later bought it, right after the American Revolution. He also bought more land later. There were about one thousand acres in the plantation. Both he and his wife Sally were members of the Church of England, and were also Tories. Stephen refused to join the Patriot Army and managed to escape the recruiting officers. Later he got to the British Army, and surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia. Stephen was a devout Episcopalian, as was his wife Sally.-

"John Scarlett, a brother of Stephen Scarlett, came to this country about the time Stephen did.

"James Scarlett (son of Stephen) married Hannah Allan. They had three sons; William, James (my father) and Allan. William never married, and died at the age of 73. Allan died when about twenty years of age; he was a member of the Episcopalian Church (St. Mary's Chapel). My mother said he was very devout. Hannah Allan was a small woman. She took pride in the fact that she never went anywhere except to church at St. Mary's Chapel.

"The first is a picture of the old church, St. Mary's Chapel. The original church was built sometime about 1750. It was built by the Crown and was known as St. Mary's Chapel. The Crown allotted one acre of land for a church and a grave yard. Very few of the graves had a marker; most of them have rocks - just ordinary rocks. That Old Church of England was the only church situated in the country, and if people went to church, they went there, and it being the only graveyard, they were all buried there."

This ends the information obtained from the Ernest Hugh Scarlett memorandum.

John Scarlett obtained a grant of 700 acres of land from John Earl Granville, dated October 2, 1761, located a few miles southeast of Stephen's farm. In May 1765 he sold this 700 acre tract to Jacob Allan. He then acquired land and an interest in a grist mill located to the southwest of and adjoined land which in later years was a part of Stephen's plantation, although the records do not show when Stephen acquired that part of his plantation.

Stephen Scarlett died in 1817, and was buried in a family cemetery, some three hundred yards northwest of his residence. His Last Will and Testament was duly recorded in Orange County. His residence was located some two and one-half miles south of St. Mary's Chapel





It is probable that Thomas Holden, Sr., was buried in St. Mary's Chapel Cemetery, although there isn't any marker to identify his grave. John Holden, Sr., (1764-1842) and his wife Catherine (1766-1825) were buried there and markers were placed at their graves. This John Holden was a son of Thomas Holden, Jr., and a grandson of the first Thomas, Thomas Holden, Sr. All information that is available on the subject indicates that St. Mary's Chapel was the church of members of the Holden Family.

In 1755 Thomas Holden became the owner of the 500 acre tract of land which included the land on which St. Mary's Chapel was established. In December 1759, or perhaps prior to that date, Thomas Holden executed a deed of gift for one acre of land to Stephen Scarlett. Apparently both Thomas and Stephen were members of the Church of England, who had immigrated to America from England, not many years before the acre-of-land transaction. Both of them apparently were Tories who refused to rebel against the mother country at the time of the American Revolution. Therefore, the conclusion, that Thomas and Stephen were instrumental in establishing St. Mary's Chapel as a place of worship for themselves and their families, and that it was established in 1759, on the one acre of land donated by Thomas Holden.

Page No. 10, of this chronicle represents a rough plat of the present-day St. Mary's Chapel Property. The area at the south-east corner marked "Cemetery" represents the one acre donated by Thomas Holden, and is now surrounded by a dry-masonry wall built of rough fieldstones. It is thought that this wall was constructed during the 1830's - 1850's, although definite information is not available as to the exact date. The original Chapel was constructed of logs and was located in the northeast corner of the one-acre plot - now the Cemetery. In 1956, Mr. David Samuel Walker (1877-1966), informed this chronicler that he remembered, as a young man, throwing the old logs from the first Chapel building over the wall and burning them. Some of the foundation stones remain in their original location, and may be identified as such to-day. The grave of Fannie Elizabeth Evans (1884-1933) is located within the boundary lines of the first Chapel building. Several years ago, Mr. Melvin T. Latta (1890- ----) informed this chronicler that he helped dig this grave and that it was necessary to move from the original location to another near by, because of the foundation stones of the first Chapel.

At the August 1777 Term of Orange County Court, the several assessors within the County exhibited an account of their assessments in the several districts, to wit:

The District of Hillsborough	L	313	
The District of St. Thomas		80	
The District of Tryon (later changed to Caswell)		101	16s
The District of Orange		117	
The District of Chatham		68	
The District of St. Mary's		216	
The District of St. Mark's		94	13s
The District of St. Asaph's		87	12s
		<hr/>	
		L1078	1s





In a deed dated November 4, 1782(OCDB 2-372), William Pinkerton and wife Elinore, conveyed to William Cain a tract of land containing one hundred acres, situate in the Parish of Saint Mary's, formerly the Parish of St. Matthew, on the waters of Bush Water Creek. This tract of land was located approximately one-half mile east of St. Mary's Chapel, and is now a part of Lockhill Farm. The Court Minutes indicate that William Pinkerton acquired this tract of land about February 1778, but the deed does not appear to be recorded in the Orange County Deed Books available to-day.

There may be other deeds indicating the location of the land as the Parish of Saint Mary's, although this chronicler has not made a search of the records to determine if this be true.

In the early Court Minutes, in a number of instances the several taxing districts of the County were referred to as the district of one of the Court Justices, or other County Official who was a resident of that district. This is confusing, of course at this late date.

The foregoing is proof that there was in fact a St. Mary's Parish or "District", although this does not indicate when the separate Parish was formed. It is this chronicler's conclusion that the Vestry divided the County into several Parishes or Districts shortly after it was authorized to do so at October 1754 Term of Court.

The following is a quotation from The Churches of Orange County, written by L. J. Phipps, as contained in Orange County 1752-1952, Edited by Hugh Lefler and Paul Wager:

The Earl of Granville, a zealous member of the Church of England, exercised all of his influence to get the church established. The Province of North Carolina was early divided into parishes and provision was therein made for the support of ministers, the purchase of glebes, erection of churches, etc., and for these purposes the vestry was empowered to levy a tax of five shillings per poll. An act was passed requiring the members of the Assembly to conform to the religious worship in the Province according to the Church of England, and to qualify for office by receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper according to the rights and usages of that church.

In searching out the origins of the churches of Orange county one will see that the early settlers, zealous for their freedom of body, mind and spirit and finding the old regimes of their homelands encroaching upon their religious principles, came not only from Europe but from other American colonies as well in their search for new lands where they might work out their own salvation with fear and trembling in the sight of God, but without fear of any man.

Chapter VI of the Laws of 1752 which created Orange county also established the Parish of St. Matthews and named as vestrymen for the parish the following: Alexander Maben, James Watson, Mark Morgan, John Patterson, Andrew Mitchell, Thomas Loveletter, Lawrence Bankston, James Ellison, William Bolling, John Gray, John Pitman and Joseph Tate.



## St. Mary's Chapel (6)

In 1754, two years after the formation of Orange county, Governor Arthur Dobbs secured the passage of a Vestry Act, but King George II disallowed the law because it conferred the right of presentation upon the vestries. The crown also disallowed church laws passed in 1758, 1760, 1761, and 1762 on the same grounds. As a result Anglican clergy were left without support and the number of clergymen in North Carolina began to decrease. In 1764, Dobbs reported that there were only six Anglican clergymen in the whole colony. Under the encouragement of Governors William Tryon and Josiah Martin and supported by the Vestry Act of 1764, renewed in 1768 and again in 1774, the number of clergymen increased from six to eighteen.

Though no dates have been established it is known that in addition to St. Matthews Church in Hillsboro at least two other Chapels of the Church of England, the established church, were organized in Orange county prior to the Revolution. St. Mary's in the Eastern part of the county and New Hope Chapel in the Southern part of the county on the hill that is now Chapel Hill were in existence prior to the war. The Rev. George Micklejohn, rector in the parish, probably preached at all three places until the outbreak of the Revolution, when he, like most of the other ministers of the Church of England, was compelled to resign his position because he remained loyal to the crown.

The Revolution had the effect of disestablishing the Church of England in the colonies. The tie between church and state was completely severed with the adoption of the Federal Constitution which declared "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." At the close of the war only five of its clergy remained in North Carolina,

This ends the quotation from Mr. Phipps' article.

In 1767 Governor Tryon sent the Rev. George Micklejohn to Hillsborough and placed him in charge of the Church of England activities in the Orange County area. He took an active part in the Orange County happenings from that time until the beginning of the Revolution. The Rev. Mr. Micklejohn was a Tory and is supposed to have gone as Chaplain of the Tory contingent from Orange County to Moore's Creek where the battle was fought February 27, 1776, as his name appears on the list of prisoners, but was paroled by the Halifax Congress in May 1776. In November 1776 he presented a petition to the second Halifax Congress which was referred to a Committee. After the Committee reported Mr. Micklejohn appeared, repeated and subscribed the oath of allegiance to the State and was discharged from his parole. Soon after this it is thought that he took up residence at Goshen, the plantation and home of General Thomas Person in Granville County. The Rev. Mr. Micklejohn remained active in church affairs throughout the remainder of his life. He died in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, about June 1818, at the age of 101 years.

If there were any other ministers of the Church of England assigned to Orange County prior to the Revolution, there does not





## St. Mary's Chapel (7)

appear to be any record of them. Perhaps there were ministers from other areas who came into Orange County from time to time and conducted services at Hillsborough, St. Mary's and the New Hope Chapel.

After the end of the Revolution former members of the Church of England, including the Rev. Mr. Micklejohn, made attempts to re-establish that church as the Episcopal Church in the United States.

At a convention of the clergy which convened at Tarborough in the year 1790, the Rev. George Micklejohn was chosen president of the convention. At the same convention he was elected a delegate to attend the General Convention due to meet in New York in 1792, and was also elected to the standing committee. He was not at the convention of 1793 or 1794, but at the latter convention he was again elected to the standing committee.

A convention of representatives of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina met at Tarborough in May 1794. The convention selected delegates to the General Convention; elected Charles Pettigrew Bishop of North Carolina Diocese, and drew up a Constitution for the government of the body. Late in the summer of 1795, the Bishop-elect started to Philadelphia to be consecrated. He intended to go on board the packet at Norfolk, but before he reached there the reports of the yellow fever and the mortality which attended it were such that he concluded to return to his home near Edenton. His application for consecration by the General Convention was not renewed after 1795, but he remained the recognized head of the church in North Carolina until 1799. In 1797 Charles Pettigrew moved to his Belgrade plantation in Tyrrell County, where he died, possibly of tuberculosis, April 8, 1807, at the age of sixty-three. It was for his services in the region of Belgrade that the name "Old Parson" was given him.

The Episcopal Church in North Carolina was not fully and completely organized until 1817. St. Mary's Chapel was admitted to union with the Episcopal Church in North Carolina at the 1819 Convention.

In 1858, mainly through the efforts of Mrs. Mary A. (Polly) White, arrangements were made to construct a new church building at St. Mary's. Mrs. White was a daughter of William Cain, Sr. Her first husband, Solomon Sutherland died, and in December 1839, she married Willie N. White. He died in May 1841. After this Mrs. White continued as a widow until her death in 1871. Her home and one of her plantations, was located approximately one mile east of St. Mary's Chapel. She and members of the Cain family had attended services at St. Mary's Chapel for a great number of years, and continued to attend services there as long as they were residents of that community. Mrs. White owned and operated two large farms, a total of approximately three thousand acres. Prior to the War (1861-1865) she was considered a wealthy citizen of Orange. Economic changes brought about by the War were very disastrous to her. She was in advancing years and apparently was unable to surmount the difficulties and problems resulting from the changed conditions. She retained ownership of her farms, but apparently was heavily in debt at the time of her death.



In 1858, John H. Webb, acting for the St. Mary's Chapel Congregation, purchased from Ellen Bain, nine and nine-sixteenths acres of land adjoining the original one-acre St. Mary's Chapel lot. Ellen Bain was a great-granddaughter of Thomas Holden, Sr., the donor of the original one-acre lot. This new land purchase can be identified on the plat of the St. Mary's Chapel Property, Page No. 70, of this chronicle.

The new church, constructed of brick, is located near the northern boundary of the new land purchase, approximately 350 feet northwest of the location of the original Chapel building. "In 1859, at the Convention, Dr. Curtis, the Rector at Hillsboro & in charge of St. Mary's, reported the building of a new brick Chapel at cost of \$2,000.00." The new St. Mary's Chapel was consecrated according to the provisions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, November 25, 1859, by Thomas Atkinson, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina.

In a deed dated April 24, 1889 (OCDB 52-171), the Rev. Joseph W. Murphy, Trustee of the Religious Association known as St. Mary's, Orange County, conveyed to the Trustees of the Diocese of North Carolina the nine and nine-sixteenths acres of land which the Trustee for St. Mary's Chapel had purchased from Ellen Bain in 1858. This conveyance to the Diocese Trustees did not include the original one-acre location of St. Mary's Chapel, now known as the "Cemetery".

It appears that throughout the years St. Mary's Chapel has been under the charge of the minister of St. Matthew's Church at Hillsborough, and in the days when transportation was slow and time consuming, this little Chapel served a very real need for the community, although it was never financially able to support a full-time minister.

A number of years ago, probably during the 1930's, regular services at the "Chapel" were discontinued and most of the communicants transferred their memberships to St. Matthew's Church at Hillsborough. In 1952 the St. Mary's Grange was instrumental in organizing an annual Homecoming Day Service. These services are usually held in July or August and have been continued to the present time. They are conducted in cooperation with the Episcopal clergy, the members of St. Matthew's Church at Hillsborough, and members of the other churches in the area, and are considered somewhat in the nature of a Community Homecoming.

During the 1920's, the Orange County Board of Education made arrangements with the Diocese to erect a public school building on the St. Mary's Chapel Property, with the understanding that the property would be used for public school purposes only, and that the use of the property would revert to the Diocese if the public school at this location should be discontinued. During the 1940's the St. Mary's Public School was consolidated with the public school at Hillsborough. Within recent years the Orange County Board of Education has released all claims to right to use this property, and it has now reverted to the Diocese.

Since 1952, the St. Mary's Grange has had a "Clean-Up Day" immediately prior to the annual Homecoming Day Service. The object here has been to clean up the Chapel building, the surrounding





grounds and the Cemetery. However, these operations were not intended to take care of major maintenance and clean-up projects.

During 1968 a group was organized which has become known as The Committee for the Restoration of St. Mary's Chapel. This relates to the physical properties and not to the use of the properties for religious purposes. A St. Mary's Chapel Fund from prior years of approximately \$300.00 and funds of approximately \$1,250.00 which had been accumulated from Homecoming Day collections were turned over to this Committee. The Committee also launched a campaign to collect additional funds. To the end of 1969 total funds received by the Committee amounted to approximately \$3,400.00. In December 1968 a new roof was put on the Chapel building, and a Cross was placed on top of the building to replace one that had been removed because of danger of falling. In the latter part of 1969, the State Highway Department re-shaped the banks of St. Mary's and Pleasant Green Roads along the southern and southwestern sides of the St. Mary's Chapel Property; also re-shaped the Access Road which runs from the Pleasant Green Road (State Roads No. 1548 and 1567) to the Chapel building. The Committee then arranged to put a coating of crushed rock on the Access Road - approximately 425 feet. The Committee then arranged to have the Cemetery cleaned off and sowed to grass. Also, an area was conditioned and sowed to grass which lies generally between the Chapel building and St. Mary's Road. This area can be further identified on the plat of the St. Mary's Chapel Property, Page No. 10, as bounded on the northwest and southwest by the Access Road and Pleasant Green Road; on the south by St. Mary's Road; on the east by the west Cemetery wall and a line running from the northwest corner of the Cemetery to the Chapel building.

The next major project on the Committee's schedule is repairing the outer walls of the Chapel building. This will involve lightly sand blasting the walls, pointing-up the brick work with new mortar, applying a silicone coating as a protection against the weather, repairing the windows and repairing and re-painting the outer woodwork and doors. It is estimated that the total cost of this project will be between \$4,500.00 and \$5,000.00. At the present time the Committee has \$1,700.00 in its treasury, which is a long distance from the total funds that will be required for this particular project.

March 1970







## ST. MARY'S CHAPEL CEMETERY

Six Miles East, Northeast of Hillsborough

The First St. Mary's Chapel, established in 1759, was located in the northeast corner of the walled Cemetery Lot. The Second Chapel, located approximately 400 feet northwest of the original Chapel, was constructed in 1859.

The Cemetery, approximately one acre in size, contains a large number of graves without identifying markers. The following list of graves is based on compilations made during 1937 and 1940 by the Historical Records Survey of North Carolina, re-checked in September 1966.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
A.(???), S.(???)		1795	
*Here Lies Body of ANNYAS	Oct. 20, 1791	Mar. 31, 1826	
*Cain, Elizabeth		Dec. 16, 1851	Age 73 Yrs.
Carrington, William		1851	Aged 85
Carrington, Duncan	Aug. 25, 1807	Oct. 9, 1874	
Dortch, John Y.	Apr. 29, 1800	Sep. 6, 1882	
Dortch, Mary A. Daughter of John Y. Dortch	Aug. 20, 1832	Apr. 7, 1921	
Douglas, Nancy (Cain) (1st wife of Adam Douglas)		Oct. 24, 1848	Age 62 Yrs.
Douglas, Rosanna (Sister of Adam Douglas)		Dec. 6, 1854	Age 75 Yrs.
Evans, Fannie Elizabeth Wife of John Lawson Evans	June 22, 1884	May 10, 1933	
Holden, Catharine Wife of John Holden, Sr.		Apr. 19, 1825	Age 59 Yrs.
Holden, John, Sr.		Oct. 22, 1842	Age 78 Yrs.
*Holden, Louisa (Daughter of Thomas W. Holden)		July 28, 1837	In the 9th Year of her age.
Kelly, John, Jr.	May 21, 1779	Nov. 24, 1851	





## ST. MARY'S CHAPEL CEMETERY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Latta, John, Sr.	May 1, 1734	July 13, 1824	
Latta, John, Jr.	May 21, 1779	June 20, 1818	Aged 39 Yrs.
Latta, Joseph	Dec. 29, 1784	May 13, 1824	Aged 29 Yrs.
*Latta, Suzanna		July 5, 1792	
Lockhart, Caroline of David & Emeline Dortch Lockhart	Nov. 5, 1832	July 20, 1833	
Lockhart, Robert of David & Emeline Dortch Lockhart	Oct. 30, 1833	July 25, 1834	
Lockhart, David of Samuel & Ellener Kelley Lockhart	June 8, 1806	Jan. 14, 1847	
Lockhart, Cora E. of John P. & Caroline Lockhart	Nov. 11, 1857	Nov. 21, 1859	
Lockhart, Samuel P. of David & Emeline Dortch Lockhart Killed in Battle of Reams Station, Virginia	May 29, 1843	Aug. 21, 1864	C. S. A.
Nichols, Alves	Nov. 15, 1800	Feb. 16, 1845	
*Nichols, A.		June 14, 1850	
Nichols, Jonathan A.	Dec. 13, 1835	Dec. 14, 1861	C. S. A.
*Nichols, Jonathan A., Jr.	Feb. 25, 1862	Mar. 20, 1862	
Nichols, Mary (Dortch) Wife of Alves Nichols	July 13, 1808	Nov. 29, 1892	
*Nichols, Jonathan	Was buried	Jan. 24, 1800	
Nichols, Mary A.	Sep. 20, 1833	June 18, 1907	
Nichols, F. R.		Mar. 4, 1850	
*Nichols, R.		Jan. 28, 1835	
*Nichols, Robert M.	Nov. 3, 1839	Jan. 5, 1840	
Nichols, Nannie J.	Nov. 12, 1843	Sep. 5, 1938	



## ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
**Vickers, Alice	1730	1780	
Walker, Rona	Oct. 1, 1880	Mar. 22, 1831	
Daughter of George W. and Cynthia Frances Walker			
Walker, George C.	Oct. 25, 1884	Mar. 8, 1885	
Son of George W. and Cynthia Frances Walker			

NOTE: \*Not confirmed September 1966

\*\*Earliest identified grave in Cemetery

N. B. : Excerpts from The Hillsborough Recorder:

1836 Oct. 14 - The Commissioners let bids for building  
of a stone wall around graveyard at  
St. Mary's.





## ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT NO. 10 - ST. MARY'S

The first public school system in North Carolina was established by an act of the Legislature in 1839, when elections to ascertain the voice of the people on the subject were held. Most of the counties approved the plan and the principal of supporting schools by a combination of local taxation and the income from the Literary Fund which had been established in 1825. The law creating the Literary Fund provided that the Fund was to be built up by dividends from the state's stock in banks and transportation projects, together with revenue from liquor licenses. Only seven counties failed to ratify the 1839 plan. Orange was among those that approved it. The counties which voted for schools were required to levy a tax amounting to \$20.00 for each school district, which was to be supplemented by twice that amount from the proceeds of the Literary Fund.

Prior to enactment of the 1839 school law, the only means of education available were, chiefly the apprenticeship system, local "Old Field" or neighborhood schools, Sunday schools, private academies, and also perhaps for some children of the well-to-do, by the tutorial system.

In 1715 a colonial law was enacted which gave the Precinct Court sole authority to bind out and apprentice dependent children to responsible masters or mistresses until they became of age; the girls at eighteen and the boys at twenty-one. In Orange County it appears that this was handled by the County Court. Usually the court order required the master to teach the apprentice an occupation or trade, and to read, write and cipher. However, it is probable that in many cases the "reading, writing and arithmetic" did not receive very much attention.

Apparently after the enactment of the 1839 Public School Law, Orange County was divided into School Districts. The chairman of the school superintendents announced in May, 1840, that the county had been divided into districts, five miles square, and requested the local committeemen to report the number of schoolhouses in each district so that a requisition could be made to the state treasurer for the county's share of the Literary Fund. In February, 1840, the County Court ordered a tax of five cents on each poll and two cents on each \$100 value of land for public schools. In 1840, according to the United States Census, there were 6,463 boys and girls between the ages of five and twenty in Orange County and less than 500 were in school: 209 in academies and grammar schools, and 157 in primary and common schools. Approximately fifty per cent of the boys and girls of Orange County were enrolled in public schools between 1855 and 1860. Only twenty-two per cent were enrolled in 1864. the percentage of boys was always larger than girls: fifty-five per cent of the enrollment in 1855 and in 1860 was male. Fifty-four per cent of the boys in the county were enrolled in 1855; whereas, only forty-five percent of the girls were enrolled. In 1860, fifty-six per cent of the boys were enrolled and forty-one percent of the girls. The average school term was never ~~more~~ than four months. Salaries for men teachers were fifty per cent higher than for women in 1855.



## ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT NO. 10 - ST. MARY'S

It appears that the number of school districts varied from time to time. Records available indicate the following: School year 1849-1850 - 90 districts: School year 1854-1855 - 51 districts; School 1859-1860 - 52 districts: School year 1863-1864 - 53 districts.

A volume containing minutes or proceedings of the Board of Superintendents of Common Schools, Orange County, North Carolina, is now in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill. These minutes are not complete, at places are confusing because there is no explanation as to why certain items are omitted. There was a meeting of the Board on September 10, 1845. The next meeting of the Board as recorded in these minutes was held on March 14, 1849.

These minutes indicate that Pleasant Green Public School was District No. 9, and St. Mary's Public School was District No. 10. These district numbers indicate that Pleasant Green and St. Mary's were among the districts established upon the call of the Chairman of the School Superintendents made in 1840.

At a meeting of the Board held on February 8, 1850, the following School Committee Men were appointed: Pleasant Green, District No. 9; Jno. M. Horner, Williamson Holloway and William Dollar. District No. 10, St. Mary's: James Montgomery, Adam Douglas and John Dortch. In January 1851, Alexander Dickson, Williamson Holloway and Samuel H. Breeze were appointed committeemen for Pleasant Green and James Montgomery, John Y. Dortch and James Terry were appointed committeemen for St. Mary's. In January 1854, John A. Cole, Alexander Dickson and Samuel H. Breeze were appointed committeeman for Pleasant Green and John Y. Dortch, James Woods and J. T. Terry were appointed committeemen for St. Mary's.

The page which follows this contains details of St. Mary's Public School for the years 1853 through 1864, as contained in the minutes mentioned above. There is not any indication in these minutes as to the location of the St. Mary's School House, or whether the building used for school purposes was owned by the school district or was privately owned.

A meeting of the Board was held April 16, 1866, present: Samuel W. Hughes, Chairman, Pro Tem, William W. Guess, Calvin E. Smith, O. Hooker, Chairman, Nelson P. Hall and Lemuel Lynch. O. Hooker, Chairman of said Board for last year, reported as follows: Amount on hand \$3,190.64, in Confederate money, and a draft on the Treasurer of North Carolina for \$1,732.68, which is payable in Confederate money, all of which is considered by the Board to be worthless.

The Committeemen in each school district are required to take charge of the school houses in their respective districts and rent them out and see that the property is not abused, and collect said rents and pay the proceeds of said renting over to the Chairman of Common Schools for Orange County.

No further minutes in this volume.



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT NO. 10 - ST. MARY'S

SCHOOL YEAR	NO. OF CHILDREN IN DISTRICT		NO. OF CHILDREN TAUGHT		SCHOOL TERM		NAME OF TEACHER	AMOUNT PAID OUT TO TEACHER
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MONTHS	DAYS		
1853	-	-	-	-	-	-	No Report for Dist No. 10 for 1853	
1853-54	43	33	25	13	5	-	Abel G. Jackson	\$ 80.00
1854-55	-	-	27	26	5	-	" "	100.00
1855-56	26	27	19	16	3	8	J. G. Cooke	67.27
1856-57	30	30	18	12	3	16	J. P. Lockhart	77.50
1857 - 58	25	33	18	13	3	-	Abel G. Jackson	60.00
1858-59	35	26	12	16	3	-	R. W. Brown	60.00
1858-59					5	-	Abel G. Jackson	100.00
1859-60	30	30	-	-	-	-	- - -	----
1860-61	--	--	--	--	-	-	- - -	----
1861-62	30	30	20	18	3	7	Abel G. Jackson	66.66
1862-63	30	30	--	--	-	-	- - -	-----
1863-64	--	--	1	7	1	-	Abel G. Jackson	35.00





## ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT NO. 10 - ST. MARY'S.

The North Carolina Constitution of 1868, drafted by a convention dominated by Northerners and their sympathizers, provided a new plan of local government which was borrowed largely from Pennsylvania. It is usually referred to as the Township and County Commissioner Plan. It provided for a board of five county commissioners to be elected at large by the voters of the county. To this body was delegated all the administrative powers and duties which had hitherto belonged to the county court.

The first county election under the new regime was held August 4, 1868, and the next day the first board of commissioners assembled at the courthouse, qualified before the clerk of the court, and organized for the transaction of county business. The body consisted of Lemuel Lynch, who was elected chairman, John U. Kirkland, Jones Watson, Robert F. Morris and William N. Patterson. At subsequent meetings within the next few days the other officers-elect appeared before the commissioners, produced their certificates of election from General Canby and entered into their respective bonds - John Turner, Sheriff; David C. Parks, Treasurer; John Laws, Register of Deeds; and George Laws, Clerk of the Superior Court.

The minutes for the meeting held October 19, 1868, contain this entry: "It is ordered by the board that Silas M. Link be employed to readjust the school districts of the County of Orange and lay off the same into townships and that he be allowed the sum of seventy-five dollars for his services, the work to be completed by November 15, 1868."

The county was divided by Mr. Link into eight townships, and his proposal received the approval of the commissioners. The townships were: Hillsboro, Little River, Mangum, Durham, Patterson, Chapel Hill, Bingham, and Cedar Grove. Some years later (in 1877) the board acting on petition, divided Mangum Township at Little River, designating the new township Lebanon.

In his report Mr. Link had specified the school districts by number which were included in each township. There were 53 districts, and at a meeting on November 11, 1868 the board appointed three school committeemen for each of the 53 districts. Presumably they were to serve until township elections could be held.

In a December meeting of this same year reference is made to a report of A. Hooker, late chairman of the board of common schools, giving some facts about the number of school children resident in each district and the condition of the schoolhouses. According to the report, there were 3,667 white children to be accommodated, and 2,235 colored children. There were only 43 schoolhouses, mostly in a dilapidated condition, to serve both races. It was estimated that it would cost an average of \$50 each to repair these buildings, and \$100 each to build the 63 new buildings required. To accommodate 30 children, it was felt that a structure should be about 18 by 20 feet. The new constitution provided that the General Assembly, in its first session, should "provide by taxation or otherwise for a general and uniform system of schools wherein tuition shall be free of charge to all the children of the state between the ages of six and twenty-one years". In April, 1869, the legislature passed the required legislation:



## ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT NO. 10 - ST. MARY'S

If there was any public school house located within the boundaries of the St. Mary's Public School, prior to 1868, there does not appear to be any record of it, and anyone now alive does not appear to have any knowledge of it. Mr. William Y. Walker, born in 1871, stated during the 1950's that he first attended school in a former tenant house, located on the south side of present-day St. Mary's Road, near Lockhill Farm. About the same time Mr. John Wesley Walker told his daughter that at one time there was a small house located a short distance northeast of his home that at one time had been used as a schoolhouse.

About 1880, as near as can be determined, a small one-room log building was constructed on land donated by John P. Lockhart and his wife Caroline, which became known as the St. Mary's Schoolhouse, and was used for that purpose until 1904. This building was located approximately three-fourths of a mile northeast of St. Mary's Chapel, on a road, since abandoned, which ran from St. Mary's Road, northward to present-day Guess Road. During 1904 a new frame school building was erected near the log school house and the log building was sold to Mr. Amos Wilson, who dismantled it and moved it to his farm on St. Mary's Road.

At the beginning of the 20th Century there was a small log building located near the present-day site of Lipscomb's Grove Church, which was used as a school house for the black children of the St. Mary's District. When this building was constructed, or when the school was established there, has not been determined.

In August 1917, the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, conveyed to the Orange County Board of Education a certain tract of land containing two acres, located west of St. Mary's Chapel, and north of St. Mary's Road, adjoining the lands of J. Wesley Walker, and others, this being a part of a nine and nine-sixteenths acre tract purchased by the St. Mary's Chapel Congregation from Ellen Bain in 1858, with the proviso that the said two acres of land should not be used for any purpose other than for a public school, and should such property cease to be used for that purpose, it would immediately revert to the Trustees of the Diocese.

During September 1917, a one-room frame school building was constructed by the Orange County Board of Education on the two acre tract of land mentioned above, and the St. Mary's School for white children was transferred to this building for the 1917-1918 school year. During 1919, a second room, adjoining the building constructed during 1917, was added and in 1921 a third room was added.

The three-room frame school building was destroyed by fire on November 3, 1930, and on November 5, 1930, the Orange County Board of Education met, and authorized the construction of a new school building to replace the one that had been destroyed by fire on November 3rd. The new building, of brick construction, was completed and was occupied by the school on January 20, 1931.

Later, during the 1930's, an auditorium building was constructed adjoining the southern side of the school building which had been constructed during 1930-31. This building was a WPA project, and apparently the money was furnished by the Federal Government.





## ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT NO. 10 - ST. MARY'S

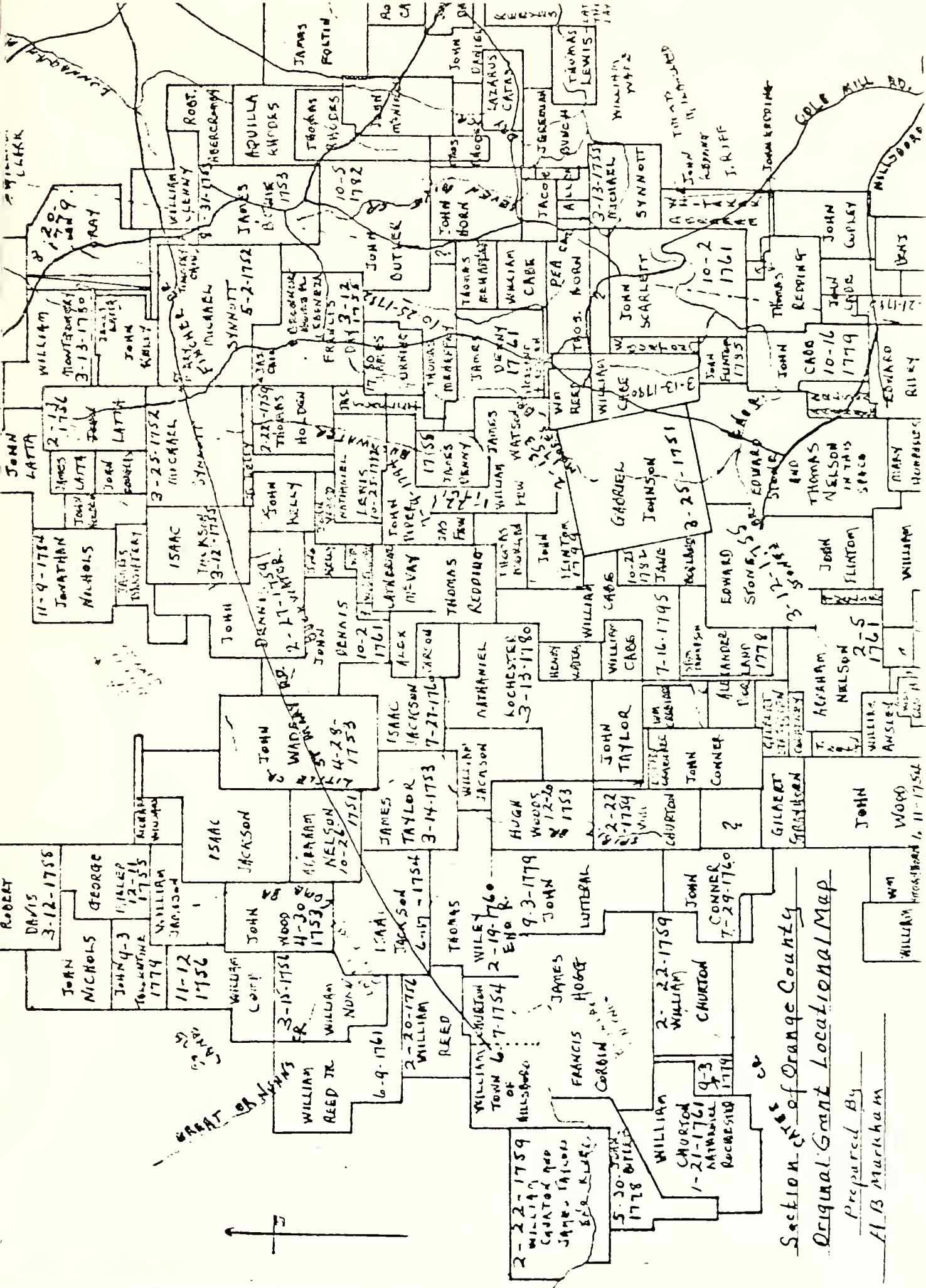
About 1943, the St. Mary's School was consolidated with the Hillsborough School, and the use of the buildings on the St. Mary's Chapel grounds was discontinued for school purposes. For a number of years these school buildings, with the consent of the Orange County Board of Education, were used by the St. Mary's Grange as its headquarters and as a meeting place.

In a deed dated April 17, 1969, the Orange County Board of Education conveyed to the Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, the two acre tract of land, together with all the building's, improvements, etc., which the Diocese had conveyed to the Board of Education in the deed dated August 6, 1917.

During the summer of 1970, an organization known as Educational Opportunities of Durham, Inc., made arrangements with the Episcopal Diocese to use the St. Mary's School Buildings for a school known as Saint Mary's Country Day School. During 1971 Educational Opportunities purchased the two acre tract of land and the buildings from the Episcopal Diocese. They have made many improvements and additions to the original buildings and now are operating a school there with an enrollment of more than 150 students.

When the white students of the St. Mary's Public School were transferred to the new school building located on the St. Mary's Chapel grounds in 1917, the St. Mary's Public School building located approximately three-fourths of a mile northeast of the St. Mary's Chapel, which had been constructed during 1904, was allotted to the black students of the St. Mary's District. At a later date the use of this property for school purposes was discontinued, and the students transferred to the Hillsborough School. In a deed dated September 18, 1941, Ernest L. Lockhart purchased from the Orange County Board of Education the property which was then known as the old St. Mary's Colored School property. He then demolished the frame school house that had been constructed during 1904, and removed the salvaged lumber to his farm located on St. Mary's Road.





Section of Orange County  
Original Grant Locational Map  
Prepared By  
A B Markham



1276

[illegible]

that prepared by Silas !! Link

November 1968

Original of the now in Duke  
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